

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 00242 131700Z
ACTION ARA-14

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O R 131611Z JAN 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8767
INFO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMCONSUL BELIZE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0242

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.) GT
SUBJ: ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN'S TRIP: PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS

REF: A) STATE 7944 (NOTAL) B) GUATEMALA 0023

1. REF B LISTS ISSUES ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS.
2. WE SUGGEST RAISING TOPICS INDICATED BELOW WITH PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER. SCHEDULE CALLS FOR HALF HOUR WITH FONMIN BEFORE HE ACCOMPANIES TODMAN TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE. WE EXPECT THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL DICTATE THAT MOST ISSUES BE DEALT WITH JOINTLY.

A. HUMAN RIGHTS
--EMPHASIZE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT;

--REMIND THAT OUR LEGISLATION REQUIRES ANOTHER HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON GUATEMALA, BOTH AS CURRENT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT AND AS POSSIBLE PURCHASER OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT UNDER THE FMS PROGRAM IN FY79. RECALL THAT HUMAN RIGHTS
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REPORTS ON MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES ARE DUE IN CONGRESS BY JANUARY 31.

-- APPLAUD PRESIDENT LAUGERUD'S COMMITMENT AGAINST ABRIDGE-
MENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTIES (I.E. STATE OF SIEGE),
NOTWITHSTANDING RECENT RASH OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE.

--EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH MOVES TOWARD RATIFICATION OF THE SAN JOSE PACT AND SUPPORT FOR CREATION OF A UN HIGH COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

B. 1978 ELECTIONS

--WE APPLAUD THE PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS, AND RESPECT FOR THE OUTCOME.

-- THE US HAS NO FAVORITE. WE HOPE TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH WHOMEVER WINS. BUT RESPECT FOR THE ELECTORAL PROCESS WILL BE OF INTEREST BOTH TO THE US EXECUTIVE AND CONGRESS.

C. BELIZE

--AS APPROPRIATE, SHARE ASPECTS OF SECRETARY'S AND TODMAN'S MOST RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ROWLANDS.

--EXPRESS HOPE THAT FLEXIBILITY WILL CONTINUE TO CHARACTERIZE GOG POSITION.

--PRAISE GOG'S GOOD FAITH AND STATESMANLIKE POSTURE THUS FAR.

D. CUBA

--ALTHOUGH NOT A BILATERAL ISSUE, PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER
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WOULD DOUBTLESS APPRECIATE TODMAN'S DISCUSSION OF OUR CURRENT CUBA POLICY, IN VIEW OF MISGIVINGS HERE.

3. WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SPIEGELER (MEETING HAS YET TO BE CONFIRMED), EMPHASIZE OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE OUR LONGSTANDING COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP IN THE MILITARY AREA. BELIEVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILL ALSO WANT TO INDORM DEFMIN OF CURRENT STATUS OF F-5 REQUEST. BEARING IN MIND AN IMPORTANT US OBJECTIVE IN GUATEMALA (PER 77 STATE 295620 STATEMENTS OF US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES) IS TO IMPRESS UPON THE GUATEMALAN MILITARY OUR INTEREST IN FREE AND OPEN ELECTION PROCESS, WE ALSO BELIEVE IT ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT TODMAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MEETING WITH SPIEGELER TO USE ELECTION TALKING POINTS (2 B ABOVE) WITH HIM AS WELL. ON HUMAN RIGHTS, IT WOULD BE WELL TO NOTE PRESIDENT CARTER'S CONTINUING COMMITMENT AND TO REMIND SPIEGELER THAT OUR CURRENT LEGISLATION REQUIRES HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON ALL POSSIBLE PURCHASERS OF US MILITARY EQUIPMENT UNDER THE FMS PROGRAM DURING THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

4. THERE ARE NO TOPICS WHICH TODMAN NEED STEER CLEAR OF IN ANY OF THE APPOINTMENTS.

5. TALKING POINTS FOR ISSUES LIKELY TO BE RAISED BY GOG:

A. BOTH PRESIDENT AND DEFMIN ARE CERTAIN TO RAISE, IF WE DO NOT, THE QUESTION OF US POLICY ON ARMS DELIVERIES. WITH DECISION PENDING ON F-5 REQUEST, BELIEVE DEPARTMENT IS IN BETTER POSITION TO SHAPE TALKING POINTS IN LIGHT SITUATION PREVAILING AT TIME OF VISIT.

B. PRESIDENT WILL PROBABLY RAISE SHIPPING DISPUTE NOW THAT FMC HAS DECIDED TO PROCEED WITH COUNTERVAILING LEVY. HERE AGAIN, BELIEVE WASHINGTON IS IN BEST POSITION TO FURNISH AUTHORITATIVE UP-TO-DATE RATIONALE.
BOSTER

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